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The Botanic Garden—A Reality

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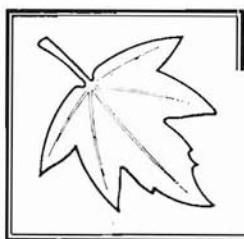
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THE BOTANIC GARDEN— A REALITY

After a long period of evolutionary development, the year 1927 saw the botanic garden in the Santa Ana Canyon become a reality. Braunton who had begun work on the landscape plans in late 1926 continued his efforts.

Walter T. Swingle, then Senior Physiologist in charge of the United States Department of Agriculture Date Garden at Indio, wrote Braunton on 14 March 1927 saying that he had spent a very enjoyable weekend at Mrs Bryant's wonderful new "California Botanic Garden." He then went on to describe the discovery of what he believed to be a new cypress in a canyon across the river from the botanic garden. He said that he had:

. . . urged upon Mrs. Bryant the need of showing in her garden the ordinary trees of California in sufficient numbers to bring out clearly the great differences they exhibit in nature. I am convinced, for example, that the form of Monterey Cypress now commonly grown is about the poorest found in the species. It is a form which fruits young and heavily, and consequently its seed can be harvested at a low price. The old Spanish settlers of Monterey, wiser than their American successors, did not take seed from this overfruitful form at Cypress Point, but planted ordinarily the nobler forms growing at Point Lobos, on the south side of Carmel Bay. Some of these best forms at Point Lobos produce very little seed, and it would not be attractive to a seedsman to collect and sell the seed of these forms; but they are very much better for dooryard or even avenue or road planting than the ordinary form we now grow.

It seems to me that Mrs. Bryant has a wonderful opportunity to bring out so clearly this fact that he who runs may read; and I hope it will appeal to you as a proper method of handling a higher-grade California garden.

I believe that every effort should be made to tie up the plants she sets out to a very definite locality, that could if necessary be visited again. In the case of trees I should like to see the seed from individual trees kept distinct, on account of the wide variation shown by many individual species of California trees.

I feel sure that Mrs. Bryant will go straight ahead and make the greatest California Garden in the world, and I am pleased to have had a chance to see her plans while still in the formative stage.

It seems clear that Braunton was under some pressure to speed up the planting plans since he wrote Swingle saying that he had arisen from a sick bed to go to the botanic garden and that on returning to his automobile to return home he had collapsed and had been in bed for four days.³⁹

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Early in 1927 the matter of sources of seed from which to grow plants for the new garden came up and Braunton wrote to Mrs Bryant saying:

Perhaps I did not clearly understand you over the phone yesterday regarding plant lists. Moreover, I had thought that one's activities in planting native plants would be governed by what is in the market, not at all a long list when we consider the great number eventually to be garnered. Even that available must be viewed with suspicion and purchased with discrimination. So much seed is now being gathered from trees and plants in parks and gardens that is not, in the strictest sense, worth anything to you if your garden is to be of the highest value to the scientific world.

. . . I believe you have bought some seeds but it is not enough to know that a lot is merely *Libocedrus*, for example. That tree has seeded freely in gardens and we do not know where the original seed came from. In buying it I would get it only of some one like Payne [Theodore Payne] and then only if he could tell me where it was collected so a record could be made of it. This tree ranges from Mexico to Oregon, and we want at least three lots of it, one from San Diego County, one from Shasta or Siskiyou, and one from intermediate territory. That is the least we could do. (I shall say *we* as long as I have anything to do with the garden). I do not wish to appear as sermonizing or as an alarmist, but knowing the technique of the matter so much better than you I feel that I should be wanting in loyalty toward the project if I refrained from lifting a warning voice if I scent possible danger. So we must *know* where every lot of seed is collected or it has no scientific value.⁴⁰

The nurseryman, Edward Howard, advised Mrs Bryant against buying plants for her garden from any nursery saying that they should all be grown from seed collected in the wild.⁴¹ These words of caution were well founded and from the earliest days of the garden great care has been taken in the securing of seeds and plants from native populations.

Braunton was responsible for collecting some of the plants which were later planted in the garden. In April he had made a trip to Yuma, Arizona, and on his way sought out localities in California for the giant sahuaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*) which is common in Arizona but occurs in California only in a narrow strip along the Colorado River.⁴²

Mrs Bryant had also written Jepson asking about sources for seeds saying:

. . . Our lath house and glass house will be finished in a few days, and my nurseryman will be ready to plant whatever seeds of conifers and other native trees and shrubs we can provide him with. It occurs to me that you perhaps can put me in touch with some department of the University of California, or State office or Government Agriculture Bureau from which I can secure a sufficient quantity for making a beginning for our next year's planting. It will not be long before we shall be organized and equipped to do a great deal of our own collecting—but I am growing impatient with waiting. It takes so long to do what I call the "housekeeping" to make ready for a project like this one, and I am eager to know that at least a few seeds are sprouting to re-forest my hills and furnish a lovely background for the Botanical Garden.⁴¹

On 10 January Branton wrote Jepson saying:

. . . Mrs. Bryant told me that she planned on getting you down here to see her garden tract but that she thought she should wait until my plans are finished. Why, I do not know, for it would then be too late for you to say anything of Value. She could hardly expect anyone to criticize the plans adversely after they were finished. If she is going to lean on you for advice in this relation she should do so now, that it may also aid me. More than that no one can get any tangible conception of such a large and broken tract from a casual visit. She is a fine woman but quite impractical on this project. Before anything is planned she has a man planting *Calochorti* and I am told she bought bulbs before she bargained with me. Someone has given her some sycamores that she wants to locate. I have told them to plant them where they please as I cannot know just where mine are to go

By the end of April the landscape plans were finished and Mrs Bryant thanked Branton for his interest in the success of her project and promised to call him when she returned from New York.⁴³

As early as the autumn of 1926, Mrs Bryant had begun to think about hiring a botanist and had written Jepson who recommended a young graduate student at the University of California, John Thomas Howell (b. 1903). Jepson described young Howell as a student of unusual promise, industrious, thorough, with excellent power of independent thinking.⁴⁴ Mrs Bryant decided to hire him with employment to begin 1 June 1927.⁴⁵ Howell's duties were to "classify and make herbarium records of the native plants on the ranch."⁴⁶ In the same letter recommending Howell, Jepson also wrote:

It seems that some well-known botanists have been insisting to Mr. Branton that he should keep all natural families together. This is amusing. What is the object of your botanic garden? Is it not to add to the scientific knowledge of California plants and contribute to the pleasures of our people? If so, the plants must be placed where conditions are best suited for their growth. The idea is to get results. Any such cordwood plan as has been proposed to Mr. Branton would be grotesque.⁴⁴

In May Mrs Bryant wrote Jepson from the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia saying that she had gone East with Dr Bryant when he took Henry E. Huntington to that city to consult a specialist and that she did not know when she would be back at the ranch, that it depended upon Mr Huntington's progress toward recovery and as a result she might not be there when Howell reported for work.⁴⁶ While in the East, Mrs Bryant made a number of purchases (in Philadelphia and New York) for her garden library. After Mr Huntington's death on 23 May, Dr and Mrs Bryant returned to Los Angeles on the 28th.

In June Mrs Bryant wrote Jepson telling him about Howell's delight in

his work at the garden and reporting that Mr Johnson, the ranch superintendent, had taken him to the desert over the weekend and that his joy had been boundless.⁴⁹ She went on to say in her letter that "In planning my native garden it seems to me a reference library will be an important item, and I am anxious to have a complete list of all publications on California botany issued by the University Press."

Howell had been employed for the summer only as he had accepted a position at the University of California, Los Angeles, to begin with the autumn term. On 20 July Mrs Bryant wrote Jepson:

. . . You present Mr. Howell's case so clearly that I feel it would not be fair to him for me even to suggest that he remain on the ranch instead of following the plan you have worked out with him for his doctor's degree. It would be a great pity to try and turn him away from his ambition, and I will say nothing to in any way upset the present arrangement. Up to the time he completed his college work he can be doing a great deal for the ranch in part time hours, and I am sure you will be pleased to see his enthusiasm and interest in the Botanic garden.

Mr. Howell is so tanned that you would hardly know him, and he has gained in weight. It is amusing to hear the other "crazy enthusiasts" joke him about his outbursts of pleasure when they go off together on week-end collecting trips. Mr. Howell and the nurseryman are planning to go north for a week or ten days in August primarily to collect pine cones, and great plans are already under way.

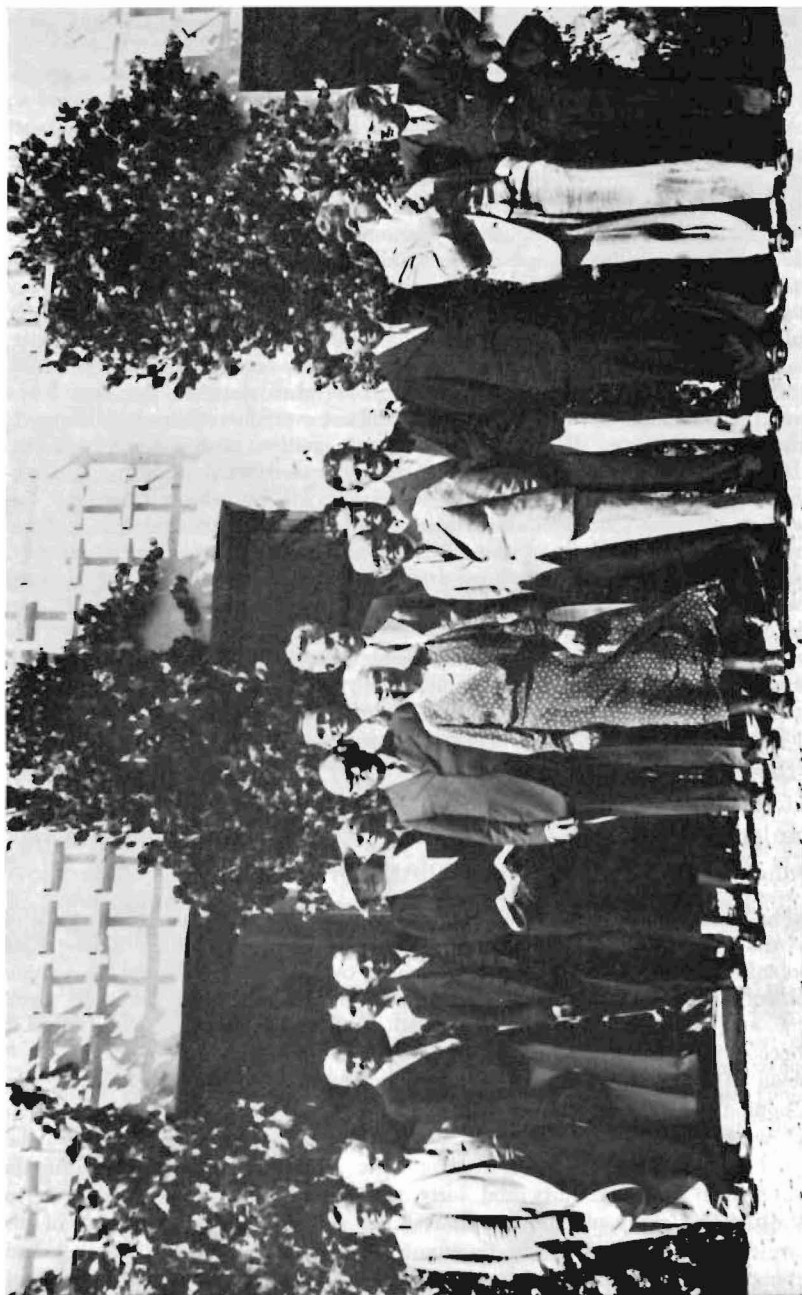
We have bought a truck for the Botanic garden and are now going to acquire a kodak, soil auger, and are also supplied with various herbarium supplies which Dr. Munz helped us with.

I took my garden family to Pomona College to see Doctor Munz and that proved to be another red-letter day for Mr. Howell.

Even if nothing of great scientific value comes from my garden of native plants there is real pleasure to be gained in living in the midst of such an enthusiastic group.

Early in October 1927, Mrs Bryant visited Jepson at his laboratory in Berkeley where she stayed from eight-thirty until twelve o'clock discussing a variety of matters having to do with the botanic garden. Jepson recorded the visit in his field notebook saying:

I had planned (this was Wednesday, Oct. 19) to go to the Little Oak Ranch on Friday next when there came a telegram from Mrs. Susanna Bixby Bryant of the Rancho Santa Ana, Los Angeles, asking to see me Friday or Saturday. I delayed my departure and replied: "Come early Friday please." There stirred in my mind a natural curiosity as to why this remarkable woman should be coming all the way from Los Angeles to consult with me. My mind has never been fully made up about her; but I have deferred judgment because there is no need of hurry to appraise so unusual an individual. She came to my laboratory at 8:30 and stayed until twelve o'clock. She did most of the talking—as usual, I listened. At times I can be a pretty fair listener. Her main purpose was to tell me that she means to discharge Thomas Howell, whom I recommended to her . . . Mrs. Bryant then indicated the kind of a botanist she wants as a resident at Rancho



Board of Trustees, Councilors and Staff, 28 April 1934. RSA. From the left: Roy Lacy, H. J. Webber, Henry O. Eversole, R. V. Cavers, Theodore Payne, Susanna Bixby Bryant, Bryon D. Stark, Allen L. Chickering, Carl B. Wolf, Alice Eastwood, D. D. Waynick, LeRoy Abrams, E. R. Johnson, Philip A. Munz, Ernest A. Bryant, Jr., John Treanor, Terry E. Stephenson.

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Santa Ana. I discussed this point a bit with her and jumped to the conclusion that she wanted my help in selecting a man. But when I took up this line there was no response and I knew instinctively and instantly that she was not coming to me for that purpose. Apparently she now intends to go to Abrams at Stanford. But why did she come to see me? Why take so much time and travel so far? As I said she talked a great deal and a long time. She told me the most intimate details of the life at Rancho Santa Ana or at her home in Los Angeles. Perhaps more or less trivial in a way—but the little happenings that fill up a day . . . Mrs. Bryant has discovered some thing, which I feel sure, pleases her very much. As owner and successful manager of the Rancho Santa Ana she paid for whatever she got for ranch use as all ranch owners do. As founder of a botanic garden, a scientific project, she discovers to her delight, that so many persons do things for the garden for nothing; that all of us give seeds or plants, for example without thought of any charge. She has told me of any number of gifts she has had and many more to come . . . Shrewd, cool, calculating, yet Mrs. Bryant gives no suggestion of being "hard", but takes you into her confidence in a way that undoubtedly, with most persons, if not everyone, makes loyal supporting and even sacrificing friends for the botanic garden at Rancho Santa Ana. Tho there was no occasion to do so to me, she re-iterated her position as to managing the garden. She means to manage it herself . . . but she is forced by the very nature of inexorable conditions to consider the far future and she told me that she now plans to have, eventually, a board of Trustees, five in number, consisting of her lawyer and girlhood friend, Allen Chickering; Mr. Ed Howard of Howard and Smith, nurserymen at Los Angeles; some "prominent" man of Los Angeles who has advised her and whose name I have forgotten [Theodore Payne?]; a member of her family; and possibly a botanist. The actual ownership of the garden is, however, to remain in her family, as the generations pass . . .⁵⁰

On 16 November she again visited Jepson at his laboratory and apparently they talked about the possibility of her hiring a scientific director. She also told him that she now planned to sell the excess plants produced at the garden and that she was confident that there would be a market for them.⁵¹ On 25 November she wrote Jepson saying:

When in San Francisco last week I talked with ——— about my Rancho Santa Ana project. I found him quite eager to come south and be "Director of the Botanic Garden." I have thought the matter over very carefully and have come to the conclusion that there will be no room for two directors for some years to come, and have decided to direct the destinies of trial pet garden myself, until it may become a burden to me at some time in the future.

Instead of a director I need a resident botanist. I am sending an S.O.S. to you: hoping you may be able to help me find the right man. The type of man I think we need is a scholar, possibly a teacher of botany, who is already on the road to becoming a "Crazy Enthusiast" on the subject of our natural California plants. A man between thirty and forty years of age who would rather delve into the detailed study of our trees and shrubs and keep accurate records of his findings than to devote his life to any thing else. What with collecting and classifying seeds and plants, making Herbarium specimens and keeping track of the Library books as they are procured, such a man should be both busy and in-

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terested in this department of the development of our Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

Please advise me what you think of my plan and also make whatever suggestions you can about what salary this position should carry etc. I am studying your library card index and will return it to you as soon as possible.

Jepson replied:

All that you have said, verbal and otherwise, regarding the Botanic Garden at Rancho Santa Ana I have pondered carefully, and it seems to me that you are quite entitled yourself to go on managing the garden in the way that you have begun. You have, it seems to me, progressed very rapidly in obtaining an understanding of botanical affairs and botanical matters generally. Nevertheless, in the present eager state of your mind, desiring strongly to have the pleasures and satisfactions which come from managing the garden and determining first hand upon its policies, I feel that the time is not yet ripe for the appointment of a scientific director.

If there were to be a scientific director, ————— would make you a fine one. He has had most excellent experience, both on the botanical and gardening side, and, since he has for many years been a graduate student with me, I know him well and can vouch for the high character of his personality. Nevertheless, I agree in spirit with you that for him to go to the Rancho Santa Ana just now would not be wise for him nor well for you.

Your decision to have for the present just a resident botanist at the Rancho Santa Ana is a sound one, but this decision is much more easily arrived at than fulfilled. Of the thousands of young men who are being trained up as botanists in the United States almost none are being brought up in the field of systematic botany. Men of this type are exceedingly scarce, and so I venture to suggest that you proceed as slowly and cautiously as possible in the selection of a man for the position you have in mind. In spite of your S.O.S. I cannot make a recommendation to-day, but I will keep the matter actively in my mind and report to you at the end of one week. This letter is just to let you know that I will do all I can to make the best possible recommendation.⁶²

Apparently Jepson did write Mrs Bryant a week later recommending a young man for the position of resident botanist and on 17 December Mrs Bryant wrote Jepson saying:

Your letter promises the best solution of my immediate problem in connection with the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and I would like to follow up your suggestion, about ————— just as soon as the Holidays are over; or, if there is a chance of getting him the first of the year, I could see him sooner. Would it be possible for you to put out "a feeler" to find out if the young man in question already has any definite plan in mind for the future?

She continued:

The most valuable steady encouragement I am receiving—which braces my faltering spirit more often than you realize—comes from the practical, common sense interest you are taking in helping me formulate a workable plan which we can follow out as the scheme of the garden unfolds.

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It may not sound very flattering to stress your "practical common sense" but that is what I need from you now and I cannot thank you enough for just the kind of assistance you are giving me.

If _____ would like to discuss the situation with me I should be very glad to invite him to come south for a week end soon after the Holidays, and will await further word from you before I take the matter up with him.

To this Jepson replied:

The matter of a resident botanist for Rancho Santa Ana continued on my mind since I wrote you last and now comes your letter of December 17th. The qualifications of _____ were gone into very thoroughly; many days were spent in pondering the man and in going into his record; and it is still my judgment that he is the best man available so far as I know just now. He had, some weeks ago, definitely determined that he would not continue at _____ but had not decided positively on other plans for the next college year. He would be willing to consider the position at Rancho Santa Ana and doubtless it would be quite agreeable for him to confer with you at Los Angeles this Christmas vacation if you wish.

You speak of a 'faltering spirit,' but may I say that you have learned a great deal in the last year and you will continue to grow with the garden each year as your project goes on. The scope and understanding of a scientific botanic garden is one you must and will grow up to. No thought of this should engender hesitation. Constant study and effort over a long period of years will be the price paid for the satisfactions and pleasures to be obtained. No able botanist is exempt from this law. Let me illustrate what I mean. Through Dr. Bryant you are, for example, very near the medical profession and must know well its standards and responsibilities. If you were wishing to be a physician you could not at once start in to practice; at least six years of intensive training would be required of you; and after that you would have at first no personal experience to guide you. No really qualified and able Doctor of Medicine would be willing to serve under you or to take orders from you. It may be well to reflect that the botanical profession is vastly more complicated; we are dealing not with just one living species as in the case of man but with a multitude of them. You are keenly and wisely appreciative of how much there is to learn. The problem in the case of the Rancho Santa Ana is to work out and determine the conditions under which it will be possible and agreeable for a botanist who can do the work you wish, to live and work.

All my life I have been spreading the doctrine that there is a place for amateur botanists in California. England is full of them. Some of the most distinguished English men of science, the most celebrated, are amateurs. I have long urged, amongst other things, that someone should start a botanic garden in California just for the sheer fun of it. Now someone is doing it and it is a genuine pleasure to help this garden in any way that is possible. As your project continues, more and more, to take on definite form, your own delight in managing it will grow *pari passu* with your growth of knowledge and experience concerning it. You will go on, I take it, for twenty or thirty years, realizing your ambition to give form to a botanic garden and increasing your satisfactions with life in this way; and not until after that time perhaps, or for a long time doubtless, will you be willing or will it be well for you to have a Scientific Director at Rancho Santa Ana. The matter of a

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resident botanist has been almost equally and for much the same reasons a problem in my mind. The ideal man would be one about forty years of age, one whose controlling hobby is the collecting of plants, the ticketing and cataloging of plants, the ordering of them into an herbarium; one who does not think much beyond this; and has no stirring ambitions but will be content to settle down at Rancho Santa Ana to do just that kind of work for a long time. I do not, now, know such a man, though one could, in time, be found. Looked at from this standpoint I am not sure that _____ would be the man to try, because he is, from this special point of view a potential asset in the botanical world, a much more valuable and gifted man than the more restricted ideal man I have just pictured who would have a narrow but specialized usefulness. _____'s qualifications are far above the average; he would collect with great energy, build up the herbarium in a thoroughly scientific way, so as to make it a scientific institution and an immediate and useful factor in the field of botany; he would develop the botanical library with wisdom and judgment and a clear far vision. I am fain to say that, with me, there is no way but to try out a candidate. Certainly it is the way we follow here in the University, trying and trying, until the person is found who will fill a place satisfactorily and effectively. For the purely scientific success of the herbarium I feel that the choice of _____ would be fortunate, but there are other considerations involved.

There is then, here, a decision of policy to be made; a decision which you yourself must make in order that you may proceed by the safest and wisest course. It is a decision that will require the most rigid exercise of your thought and judgment. In this and in any other matter I am, as always, wholly at your service to render any help I can.⁵³

At the same time Jepson gave Mrs Bryant his unlisted telephone number and suggested times that she might call him. Mrs Bryant did not hire the applicant for reasons which will later be made clear.

Until well into the year 1927, there had been little or no consistency in the use of the terms "botanic garden" or "arboretum" and Mrs Bryant had from time to time used both. Neither had there been a consistent use of a name for the garden. Theodore Payne had first called it "your Wild Garden"⁵⁴ and later as your "California Garden."²² Walter T. Swingle had called it the "California Botanic Garden."⁵⁵ Branton referred to it in 1926 as the "Bryant Botanic Garden"⁵⁶ and was later in 1929 to write "It will always be known, the world over, as: 'The Bixby Botanic Garden, at Los Angeles' by word of mouth, and in literature as the 'John W. Bixby Botanical Garden.'"⁵⁷ In a letter to Jepson written on 10 January, Mrs Bryant had referred to it as the "Rancho Santa Ana Wild Garden." On 31 October she again wrote him saying that "on the last flying trip north I gathered so much valuable information for our 'Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden' that I am doubtful if I shall be able to digest it all. Mr. Chickering and I had a long talk on the subject of the name of my nature garden and both decided that there were most excellent reasons for adopting the ranch in preference to the family name." The name Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden can be con-

sidered to date from 31 October 1927 although it was not until some time later that it would be referred to as such in the press and printed matter distributed by the garden.

More and more of Mrs Bryant's time was now being taken in developing the library and as early as 8 April 1926 there is a statement from the London booksellers, Dulau & Co. of Cavendish Square, showing that she had purchased for £25 Wilmott's *Genus Rosa* (two volumes, 1914). In November she bought Sander's great work on orchids, *Reichenbachia* (four volumes, 1888-94), for £18 18s.

Curtis's Botanical Magazine which began publication in 1787 and continues to this day, has no peer in the world of horticultural literature and it was only natural that Mrs Bryant should early have sought a set for her growing library. Some time during the latter part of 1927 she wrote to Thomas Hay, Superintendent of the Central Parks, London, indicating her interest in obtaining a set of the *Botanical Magazine*. On 1 February 1927 he wrote her saying that he had had a look at two sets, one of which the binding was "dull and dismal." The second one was a set that had been brought together from various sources with a variety of types of binding; this set he said was then on its way to Japan. He had then gone to Guildford some 20 miles from London to see a set located by Mr John Hinton Knowles. This set he said would certainly please her. Knowles had already written Mrs Bryant with the details; volumes 1-70 bound in half green roan, with gilt, and volumes 71-146 bound in half green calf, with gilt. The price for the 147 volumes was £250. Mrs Bryant purchased the set and it is today one of the most consulted periodicals in the garden's library.

Thomas Hay had suggested that Mrs Bryant should also obtain the *Botanical Register* (*Edward's Botanical Register*, 1815-1847), a periodical that she did purchase in London the following year for £45.

In July 1927, Mrs Bryant opened an account with Henry George Fiedler, New York bookseller, and sent him a long list of items she desired for the library. In addition to the "great flower books" she was now also buying items of strictly botanical interest. The development of the library was well underway.

Meanwhile, work at the ranch on the lathhouse and greenhouse continued under the supervision of Fred H. Howard, well-known southern California horticulturist and partner in the firm of Howard and Smith. The first plants propagated for the new garden were grown from seed obtained from Theodore Payne but it was not long until Ernest R. Johnson, Superintendent of the ranch, was busy collecting seed from native stands for the garden.

When Mrs Bryant decided to build a large Spanish-style country home,

a portion of which would also serve during her lifetime as the administrative offices for the botanic garden she called upon the well-known Pasadena architect, Wallace Neff, to draw up the plans. In May, Mexican laborers on the ranch began the manufacture of adobe bricks for use in the construction of the house which, after Mrs Bryant's death, became the administration building for the garden.

Late in the year 1927 another name appears in the history of the garden, that of Gertrude Lester Rowntree (b. 1879) who had written Mrs Bryant in November 1927 saying "I am told that you are interested in our native wild flowers and am sending you my little list of seed." Lester Rowntree (as she prefers to be known) has authored many books and articles extolling the merits of California native plants and a recent author has written of her saying "Lester Rowntree's knowledge of flowers made her sought after as a garden designer, lecturer and writer. Her enthusiasm, directness and humor made her popular in all these roles."⁵⁸ For years she had collected seeds of California native plants which she sent to customers around the world. The list that she sent Mrs Bryant in 1927, however, was her first printed offering.⁵⁹

During the year 1928, Dr and Mrs Bryant and children, Susanna and Ernest, Jr, spent nearly six months from April through September in Europe. While in England Mrs Bryant visited the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.²⁰ At the time when she left California, work on the family country home was well under way as was the development of the garden; plants were being propagated and Howell was busy collecting specimens and keeping records. When Mrs Bryant returned at the end of September the only disappointment that she reported was the fact that there had been too little collecting of seeds for germinating in the nursery that fall. In a letter to Jepson she wrote "We have come to a place now where we need your advice. I feel that it is so necessary for you to see the ranch that this letter is in the nature of an S.O.S."⁶⁰ Apparently she wished to have his advice on just where to place the plants in the garden and she asked him if he could come down after the middle of October. According to her, the house at the time was in the hands of the painters and that it would be two or three weeks before they could move in but after that she would be delighted to have him come down at his convenience. She again wrote him on 9 December repeating her invitation and on 3 January 1929 Jepson wrote saying that he planned to drive down the following week.

After visiting the botanic garden Jepson recorded his impressions in his field notebook for 9 January 1929 where he wrote:

A wire is sent to Mrs. Bryant saying I shall be at the Rancho Santa [Ana] Wednesday morning at ten. Next morning I am there at ten. Mr. Howell comes out to meet me and says my arrival was broadcasted to the ranch from Los Angeles the night be-

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fore. Soon Mrs. Bryant arrives (I hear later that in accordance with her convenience she had planned that I be at the ranch tomorrow and the two days following. But my method of handling matters forestalled that. She had insisted on my coming, so I proposed that she be at my disposal.)

From the ranch office on the river bench I walked with Howell and the ranch superintendent, Mr. Johnson, up the sharp slope through the newly planted cactus garden to the "administration building" which sits on the flattish summit of a hill about four hundred feet about the river bench. It is a large and fine-looking building with a tower, all in the Californian mission style. The walls are about 4½ feet thick, of adobe brick made by the Mexican workmen on the place. The living room has a high vaulted ceiling and is very impressive with its large windows—those looking toward the east framing Mt. San Jacinto through the Santa Ana Cañon on a fine day, those toward the west giving view toward the ocean. One can see too the Santa Ana River winding through its narrow cañon bottom.

During her life-time Mrs. Bryant will use this building as a residence for her family. After her death it is to be used as the main garden building and has been designated with that purpose in view. The herbarium room is on the first floor to the right of the main entrance. Her herbarium cases are modeled, she says, after those at Stanford, rather low units, sheet-metal cases, lined with cedar shelving. There are, perhaps, twenty of these cases fairly well filled with mounted specimens—all Californian native plants.

We entered her car and Mr. Johnson drove up the steep slopes of the hills which rise from the river bottom and are deeply and steeply gullied by small cañons. On the slope of one of these cañons near the head of it are now being planted Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pine and similar conifers that may be expected to do well here. These hills are extremely arid and no more unpromising locality for a botanic garden could have been selected, it is one's thought, along the California coast from Orange Co. to Del Norte County. However, one can, in any part of arid California, do well if water is to be had. A water system is being installed which will permit a considerable area to be irrigated. A large reservoir is now being built near the top of the garden area; a web of pipes is being laid on contour lines about 100 feet apart. So much for that.

After luncheon in a very impressive dining room we drove to Aliso Cañon. This is a fairly large side cañon from the Santa Ana River with a valley in it and considerable good soil. Willows and Sycamores grow along the water course. This would have been a much more ideal spot for the Botanic Garden, but Mrs. Bryant plans to put all this area into almonds, a two-year-old experimental plot of about twenty acres being called to my attention. We drive or rather climb, mostly without roads, to the summit of these hills for the view . . .

Next we went to the nursery. All the stock here on view has been grown from seed, mostly collected by Mrs. Bryant's own collectors. Stark is the nurseryman and displays a fine lot of seedlings, clean and thrifty . . . All this stock is to be planted this winter—right away.

Jepson continued:

During the course of these goings about Mrs. Bryant told of incidents in connection with the ranch work—good stories of how this man or that man got ahead of her. This was always done in the presence of the man concerned, with a lively flow of spirits and good humor. I noted however that the out-

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come was always to the advantage of the ranch. She talks with her men in a very comradely way and has, I think as she claims, their undoubted loyalty. But she knows thoroughly how much work each one can do; she learned, before taking on the job, how much land two horses can plow in a day and posted herself thoroughly on every other phase of ranch work. I am sure she gets a dollar's worth or more for every dollar expended. As usual she told me of certain intimate or at least everyday happenings of her family life. She also told about Ernest Branton, whose manners she dislikes so much, coming down to the Rancho Santa Ana and applying for the job of Director of the Garden She asked me if I knew Branton? (This question threw not a little light on the weight given in her mind to the time and work I have given her problems). I replied quietly that I had recommended Mr. Branton to her for the work of landscaping the garden. She replied: Oh so you did, and ran right on

Actually Charles Sprague Sargent had recommended Branton for the job and when asked by Mrs Bryant for his opinion of Branton, Jepson had said he was the best man available.

. . . So passed the day. It was about sunset when Mrs. Bryant asked to ride with me in my car back to her home in Los Angeles During the drive she told [me] of her deed of trust for the garden executed before going on the Mediterranean tour a year ago; the garden left to three trustees, Mr. Allen Chickering, Mr. Ed Howard,⁹⁰ her son Ernest. The first an attorney-at-law, a girlhood friend; the second a rough but honest nurseryman in Los Angeles. These three to choose two others I asked her what safeguards she had made that the garden would be a scientific garden, a scientific asset to California contributing by its research, its scientific results to the higher welfare of Californians; that it would be a real research place and not degenerate into a show place or amusement place. This was the chance I had been waiting for. She was much impressed by the possibility that it might be diverted from its intention and for once I got beneath her skin a bit.

She brought up again the matter of Director and said ———— had wanted to come down for \$6,000 a year, with the privilege of a house for his family, and control of the scientific budget. She thought this sum altogether too much and said she meant to be Director for the present and that in no case would she give a Director money to spend as he wished. She did not refer to the fact that she had looked up ————, not he her. She also spoke of the presumption of ———— on laying down conditions on which he would come to the Rancho Santa Ana.

I told her that she was not ready for a Scientific Director, that she did not yet know enough about the purposes of botanical science

Three days later Jepson again wrote in his field notebook about his visit to Rancho Santa Ana saying:

During the ride into Los Angeles Mrs. Bryant stated rather clearly the kind of work she has in mind for the garden to do: To introduce valuable native plants into ornamental horticulture; to help out in the problem of valuable native forage plants; to bring together groups of native species so that students or investigators can come and study them. She stated two other objects which are equally

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sound, but in the roar of traffic I was not able to follow her argument about the garden very closely

After Jepson's visit Mrs Bryant had written him saying:

The more I think of your quick dash to the Rancho Santa Ana and back just to answer my S.O.S. the more sincerely do I appreciate the interest you are taking in my project.

Each suggestion you made is receiving serious consideration and I will try to work constantly toward permanency and a future of security for the scientific development of our Botanic garden.⁶⁵

Jepson replied:

While the pressure of events seemed too great to permit journeying to the Rancho Santa Ana, yet I knew that demands upon my time increase geometrically and that in view of your letter it were better to start at once. I dreaded going. The San Joaquin Valley was filled with tule fog and by the time I reached Tulare my body was so chilled that I went to bed for thirteen and one-half hours. Then I was all right and went on.

It seemed extremely fortunate to see the site of the Botanic Garden at the Rancho Santa Ana while still in its natural state. I shall now have a basis of judgment and of comparison as against future developments that will be invaluable. The first impression of the visitor is naturally unfavorable, but as one studies the topography he sees its advantages as well as its disadvantages and a rather wide range of possible developments. Without water, a long series of vegetative units may be successfully handled; with water the practical limit is vastly extended and provides a theater of effort sufficient, I think, for every reasonable wish. Within fifteen or twenty years one can foresee those hills and steep slopes bearing vegetative assemblages of unique scientific interest, and possessing in addition elements of landscape grandeur and charm.

It was highly gratifying to find already constructed an "administration" building so well adapted for its immediate dual purpose; to see the water plans being carried out in well-conceived and effective engineering; and to inspect nursery beds showing skill in seed germination and in producing clean and thrifty seedlings

It was a great day and I am most glad that time was taken by the forelock then and there for this trip to the new botanic garden. I am filled with vivid memories of it; and I shall watch the garden's progress and development with ever deepening interest.⁶⁶

On 13 February 1929 Mrs Bryant wrote Jepson what he considered "a very tart letter"⁶⁴ saying among other things that she was dissatisfied with Howell and might have to find a replacement and she asked his advice about a man who had applied for the position. Three days later Jepson replied saying:

This is in reply to your letter making inquiry as to the qualifications of ————. He is well trained botanically but it seems unlikely that he would at all fit into

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your menage at the Rancho Santa Ana. While I know him fairly well, it had never occurred to me to recommend him to your attention.

Jepson then continued:

On my visit to the Rancho Santa Ana it was obvious that an interpretation was placed upon my advice regarding a Scientific Director different from that which was in my own mind. Of course I learned a very great deal even in one day at the Rancho and I can undoubtedly clarify my position.

-1. It has been clear to me from the first of our various meetings that you were determined not to put your garden in charge of a Scientific Director. It was my feeling that if you (or any one in similar case) wished to have high enjoyment planning and planting a garden it was quite your privilege to do so, to be your own Garden Director (not Scientific Director) and I so expressed myself.

-2. As I learned the conditions at the Garden it was also obvious that it would not be possible for me to recommend any botanist to go there to be the Scientific Director. As I said in my letter of November 29, 1927, it would not be a wise step for such a man.

-3. Instead however of being simply a Garden Director, making a garden for your own pleasure or for exhibition or educational purposes, and passing the project on to be a Scientific Garden after your death, it now seems that you mean to be the Scientific Director yourself. We have then, in that case, a problem presented which has many difficult aspects. You have not only had no training in the scientific field or botany, but the professional ethics and canons governing intercourse among botanists, a code several thousand years old, is a closed book to you. When you stepped from the field of business and society, where you are quite at home, into the field of Botany you were delighted to find certain privileges awaiting you (privileges quite foreign to the ranch or office) but you do not realize that with those privileges go heavy obligations. Frequently you do things in the name of Botany from which you would naturally refrain in the world of business.

-4. Ever since California was born it has needed more than aught else, nearly, a botanic garden. Of all the numerous California citizens of considerable means you are the only one who has thought to do this thing for the good of humanity and for the credit of civilization in California. For that intention and wish I give you, we shall all give you, full praise. The various activities which you propose for the garden are all desirable, but are such things as are already supplied by existing nurseries, parks, show gardens, seed establishments, wild flower gardens, or what not. All these useful things should be incidental to or the by-products of the garden as a scientific institution. To be a scientific garden it must carry on research—research in no way tainted by commercial activities or the sale of materials. This research must be done by and be directed by a professionally trained and experienced botanist. A research place is important in just the degree that it adds effective knowledge to the world's store. Remember the garden a few rods square in Austria where Mendel made his experiments; it is immortal so long as the world of science shall last, as are the few acres of ground at Down where labored the author of the *Origin of Species*.

-5. Visitors will come to your garden in numbers. They will glow over the beauty of an herbarium sheet or the attractions of the garden areas. Even botanists,

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doubtless, will politely beam under the hospitality of the Rancho Santa Ana. But you are, I think, too astute and too penetrating a woman to be gratified by such attention. My own time and energy in relation to your garden were wasted were it not with the confident hope that your native powers, strong and eager, will be satisfied with no less than a truly scientific establishment. On the evening when we returned to your home Dr. Bryant characterized your relation to the success of your garden in three terse terms. Two of these qualities, if wisely used, can redound to your advantage. You have much energy and determination; you have strong aspiration. There is one thing you lack which all the wealth of the Indies can not buy. If you realize this lack and accept it, your course will become relatively easy.

I speak with the more freedom in that this matter is to me personally an academic one. As you have known from the start, I myself must give my main energies to my own research, long ago laid out and holding in fee all the years left me. But it must be made plain to you that so long as your present attitude is maintained, no botanist, outstanding in merit and wise in experience will consent for long to be associated with the Rancho Santa Ana.

What was the reason for what Mrs Bryant termed this "most extraordinary letter"? In writing of other men's lives, Jepson insisted that it was dishonest to remove what he called "thorns." In Jepson's life there were "thorns." Jepson could be difficult and he often alienated people, usually permanently, and at times made excruciating demands on the loyalty of his friends.⁶¹ In this case, however, he was probably trying only to get across a point but he did it in a very undiplomatic manner.

Jepson had a very strong conviction of the importance of Science as well as that of the conservation of California's unique flora and it is evident that he saw in Mrs Bryant's pioneering effort to develop a botanic garden devoted entirely to California plants the possibility of the establishment of a scientific institution such as he would have liked to have established given ample funds and the time (see page 23).⁶² It is abundantly clear that Jepson had a deep and sincere interest in the young botanic garden in Santa Ana Canyon, an interest that in spite of the events of February 1929 continued to the time of his death in 1946.

Why then had he written the letter of 16 February? It was not written and sent on sudden impulse because there exists an earlier version dated 9 February with the notation, "This letter was not sent. It formed, however, the basis for my letter of Feb. 16, 1929." If the date 9 February is not in error it means that Jepson's earlier version of the letter of the 16th was written prior to the time that he received Mrs Bryant's "tart letter" of the 13th. Among other things, Jepson was concerned about what he considered unsatisfactory terms of employment for the resident botanist at Rancho Santa Ana. In seeking a replacement for Howell, Jepson had urged ———, to make an application which included what Jepson

felt were proper demands for the employment of a professional botanist.⁶² Mrs Bryant later referred to the application saying, "the presumption of _____ in laying down conditions on which he would come to Rancho Santa Ana." She had also indicated that she considered unsatisfactory _____'s salary requirement along with the privilege of a house for his family and the control of the scientific budget.

As early as January 1929, Jepson had written "Thoughts regarding Mrs. Susanna Bryant's Botanic Garden" in the form of a letter which was never sent. He had written:

In this land of ours are but a few botanic gardens and you have the opportunity to do something of a kind never done before. There is a chance for you to do a perfectly splendid thing—but it must be done in the right way.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie sees certain possibilities and there results the Carnegie Institution, one of the greatest research agencies of the world. Mr. C. C. Eddy, wishing to improve forest trees, founds the Eddy Tree Breeding Station and puts its direction and budget in the hands of a scientific direction [sic]. These two men (as many others) bow low in deep obeisance before the Temple of Science . . . you can render unto it an honor and a devotion to the point of deep sacrifice and in turn the greatest honor will be yours. Refuse in your botanic garden to accept the domination of Science and you will surely fail.

In his field notebook Jepson wrote "The explosion point has been reached at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. In answer to a letter from Mrs. Bryant I sent her a letter, a statesman-like letter, explaining to her that she could run a Garden herself but not a Scientific Garden unless she had a Scientific Director." He continued, "I presume I was incensed down beneath . . . She tried to substitute me (and perhaps others) for a Director. My letter was calm and sound—but it infuriated her."⁶³

It seems quite clear that what Jepson wanted Mrs Bryant to do was to appoint a Scientific Director and to provide him with an adequate salary, living facilities, and an independent budget to further the scientific work at the garden. After receiving Jepson's pleasant letter of 19 January in which he had complimented her on the accomplishments of the garden Mrs Bryant was justifiably perplexed by his letter of 16 February and on the 26th she wrote him saying:

Ever since the receipt of your most extraordinary letter I have been at a loss to fathom your provocation for sending it; and have also been debating whether to make any reply to it or not.

A few days after you visited the ranch in January you wrote commending us for our accomplishment during the past two years, and assuring me that you "would watch the progress and development of the Garden with ever-deepening interest."

Following so closely upon this expression I was totally unprepared for your



Carl Brandt Wolf at Saddlebag Lake in the high Sierra Nevada, 17 August 1933. RSA.

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tirade of unwarranted condemnation of my efforts to establish a Botanic Garden at Rancho Santa Ana for the sole purpose of sharing with the public the collection we are gathering together of our beautiful plants native to California.

When Mr. Chickering and I put my plan before you some two years ago your enthusiasm appeared to be very keen, and you have given many tangible proofs that it had not waned up to the past few days. During this period I have frequently been the recipient of wise counsel, constructive suggestions, and practical good advice from you—bestowed generously until now you suddenly, without apparent cause, indulge in an outburst of unbridled and destructive criticism which is entirely unworthy of you in that it is both uncalled for and discourteous.

Furthermore you place me in the embarrassing position of having taken undue advantage of your proffered co-operation, and thereby trespassed upon your valuable time. Of course that has been far from my thought and intent.

I regret more than I can tell you that this contretemps has arisen and am exceedingly sorry for having brought my Garden Project to your attention in the beginning; but, on the other hand, for the invaluable assistance you have given so liberally, and with what seemed to be genuine interest in the unfolding of the plan, I am and always shall be deeply appreciative.

Following the exchange of letters of February 1929, relations between the two remained strained for the next several years and Mrs Bryant then turned to Dr Abrams at Stanford and Dr Bailey at Cornell University for advice. She also sought advice from others as far afield as the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, where she wrote William Wright Smith (later Sir William Wright Smith), then Regius Keeper, asking him to suggest candidates for the position of Resident Botanist.

On 3 January of the following year, Jepson wrote Mrs Bryant a polite letter saying:

The last number of *Madroño*, journal of the California Botanical Society contains an article upon the native vegetation of the Santa Ana Cañon region [by John Thomas Howell]. It is an article which will interest you and also be of great value to any person that is resident botanist at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. A copy of the journal is being sent you by this mail with my compliments.

As a footnote I myself have described the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in a few words by way of explanation, but I hope that we shall have later on a complete account of the garden, its plans and objectives. If you should wish any further copies of the journal, please to let me know.

Naturally my interest in the garden will never diminish and I wish to express my best wishes for its continued development and success in this new year.

Acknowledgement of receipt of the letter and copy of *Madroño* was made by Ernest A. Bryant, Jr, Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

On 22 November 1928, Braunton had written saying that he was submitting a draft of an article about the botanic garden and asked Mrs Bryant to make whatever changes she wished. The article to which he referred

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appeared in the *California Cultivator* for 15 December 1928 and on the same day the *Santa Ana Daily Register* devoted an entire page to the new botanical garden probably from material supplied by Braunton.

This is the first public announcement about the botanic garden. It is also the first time that there is any mention of the fact that the garden was established in the "Memory of John W. Bixby, Pioneer," although it appears regularly on all garden printed matter after that date. In all the Bryant correspondence examined there is no mention of her father's name in connection with the botanic garden. In matters regarding the botanic garden Mrs Bryant always signed her name with green ink and much of the early literature about the garden, admission cards, and the early *Leaflets of Popular Information* were printed in green or are on green paper. She did not use green in connection with other things.²⁰

In the report appearing in the *California Cultivator* mention is made of the fact that already 45,000 native plants had been propagated and were ready for planting in the garden that fall and winter. It is also reported that the collection of California cacti and succulents was already nearly complete.

While he was working on the future press release, Braunton had written Mrs Bryant posing a number of questions the answers to which he thought might be of interest to readers and he had asked "Should not something be said of your personal interest in plants or botanic gardens, or both. Could it not be stated when or how your interest began and why you went to Arnold [Arboretum] and what other gardens you have visited."⁶⁷ Since this information does not appear in the published account it can be assumed that Mrs Bryant prevented Braunton from adding material which later readers would have found of interest in tracing the development of the botanic garden.

One of the reasons for Mrs Bryant's trip to Europe in 1928 was to buy books for her rapidly growing library. In this she was eminently successful as antiquarian booksellers' invoices indicate. Of the many outstanding purchases made that year one may be mentioned in particular, that of Pierre Joseph Redoute's *Les Roses* (1817-24), in three folio volumes with a duplicate set of plates in brown and white of which only 15 sets were published and for which she paid £221.

Early in January 1929, Beatrix Farrand, a noted landscape architect of Bar Harbor, Maine, visited Mrs Bryant and the two women spent a day walking through the botanic garden with Mrs Bryant describing the general plans she had for the area. Mrs Farrand is noted for having re-designed the plantings at Dumbarton Oaks in the 1920's and she was hired on several occasions by the Arnold Arboretum as a design consultant. In a letter of 29 July Mrs Farrand wrote, "I shall be interested to know how the work progresses with you and what you decided to do with

the surroundings to your house . . .” Apparently she did not prepare a landscape plan for the area as her statement for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1929 shows “no charge” and in the garden report for the period January 1927 to June 1931 it is reported that landscape plans for the area around the house had been completed by Fredrick Law Olmsted, “well known to us first for his achievements as a landscape architect in Boston, then to Californians for the landscaping at Palos Verdes Estates, and more recently for his splendid work in our State park survey and report.” Olmsted was also responsible for the landscaping of the Stanford University campus and has been described as “one of the most talented people ever to be engaged in the profession of landscape design.”¹⁵ A year earlier Olmsted Brothers had prepared a plan for walks and trails through the Santa Ana garden.

While there is a dearth of correspondence for the years 1929–30, work at the botanic garden was being pressed forward as photographs of planting crews indicate. The garden also continued to receive press coverage with the first notice in the *Los Angeles Times* appearing on 21 April 1929.

Mrs Bryant was also attracting notice of another kind; as an active conservationist pointing out through press releases and printed tracts the urgent need to protect California’s wildflowers. As early as March 1927, as President of the Los Angeles Garden Club, she had written Jepson informing him about the club’s organized effort to “help save the wild flowers” and offered the club’s cooperation in every way possible to further conservation in the state. Jepson had replied:

Probably on the whole, the native flowering plants will be preserved in only one sort of area, namely, the natural parks of the state or similar sanctuaries, National, State or private. My work now goes almost exclusively towards the establishment of parks, both State and National. We need more and more of them, in any event.

There is one thing which ought to be done and that is assault vigorously the wild-flower shows held in the spring in almost every considerable town in California. These wild-flower shows represent wide-spread and ruthless destruction. Two years ago, I was the speaker at such a show in Suisun, Solano County. They had one wash tub full of Blue Dicks (*Brodiaea capitata*) containing probably between 80,000 and 125,000 flowering stems, all, of course, pulled out of the ground. And this tub was in a remote corner and had not really been put upon display at all.¹⁶

After a long search for a Resident Botanist to replace Howell, Mrs Bryant announced the appointment of Carl Brandt Wolf (1905–1973) as Botanist effective 1 September 1930. Wolf, born in Michigan, was a graduate of Occidental College and had received his Ph.D. in June 1930 from Stanford University where he had studied with Dr LeRoy Abrams. As a

young man he had also worked for Theodore Payne and he had a broad knowledge of, and interest in, the California flora. Wolf was a fine field man and collected large quantities of herbarium specimens and under his direction the herbarium grew at a rapid rate. He was also responsible for making collections of seeds and cuttings for the living collections at the garden. As Ira Wiggins was later to write of him, "His field notes were meticulous and voluminous, and labels accompanying his herbarium specimens bore much more information than the usual amount of information supplied by contemporary botanists."⁷⁰ Wolf once estimated that in his travels criss-crossing California he had been within 25 miles of any point within the state. Mrs Bryant could hardly have picked a better man for her young garden.

The *First Printed Report of The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden of The Native Plants of California* covers the period from January 1927 to June 1931. This is the first time that the statement "Of The Native Plants of California" appeared in connection with the name Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. The date shown on the cover is 1927 but the report is for the years 1927-31 and consists of 23 printed pages and cover. Included is a general statement about the history of the ranch and general plans for the garden and then a "Condition Report" on the garden plantings as of 1 April 1931 followed by a list of garden plantings which "Have Since Suffered a Complete Loss" and this is followed by a detailed report of the individual plantings and a list of plants indigenous to Rancho Santa Ana.

The Board of Trustees are listed: Allen L. Chickering, Chairman; and Roy Lacy and Ernest A. Bryant, Jr, members. The garden staff consisted of: Mrs Bryant, Business Director; E. R. Johnson, Superintendent and Construction Engineer; Carl B. Wolf, Botanist; B. D. Stark, Nurseryman; R. V. Cavers, Secretary, and Ernest A. Bryant, Jr, Representative from the Board of Trustees.

In 1931 the American Association for the Advancement of Science held its 88th annual meeting at Pasadena as guests of the California Institute of Technology and on 19 June had an excursion to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. There they held a symposium entitled "Botanic Gardens" with three invited speakers: Walter T. Swingle, United States Department of Agriculture; Douglas H. Campbell, Stanford University; and H. J. Webber, University of California, who spoke on the need for botanic gardens on the Pacific Coast. After the symposium, members of the group were the guests of Dr and Mrs Bryant who hosted a barbecue luncheon. It is probable that the first printed report of the garden was timed to coincide with the visit of the group from science meetings. By June 1933 Mrs Bryant was again writing Jepson saying:

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It has been several years since your flying visit to Rancho Santa Ana on a day which belied all our boasting about the "perfect climate" of Southern California, but in spite of some bad weather and other drawbacks we have been making steady progress with the development of our Botanic Garden program.

You gave us our first start by furnishing Mr. Braunton with a complete list for this planting plan of trees and shrubs native to California, and your wise counsel has helped us on many occasions. I am sure now you would feel that we are really establishing a scientific garden if you could see the plantings already set out and thriving, and the systematic Herbarium and Nursery records we are keeping. Mr. Wolf, our Botanist, has been gaining some really constructive data, and Mr. Johnson and Mr. Stark continue to build up the permanent improvements, and grow nursery stock as needed. Mr. Cavers, secretary, assembles our records and keeps accurate reports of everything that is done.

We have enough worthwhile material to publish a year book, and I am writing to ask if we may have the privilege of counting you a member of our Garden "Counsellors." Your official endorsement will be a real incentive to us, and I am sure we are working along scientific lines in a way which would meet with your full approval.

For the past two years the entire expense of operating the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden has been borne by the income from its endowment fund, and I anticipate that even in this year of curtailed dividends the securities laid aside "before the crash" will carry the whole burden of expense.

Trusting to hear from you very soon, and hoping that you may find time to spend a day or two with us during the Summer if you can arrange a visit to Southern California⁷¹

To which Jepson replied:

It will be a great pleasure to be named as a Counsellor of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and I shall hope that I may be of some real service in helping to solve the new problems which must continually arise in a progressive garden.

It seems particularly fitting at this time for me to send congratulations on the judgment and wisdom of the owner of the Rancho Santa Ana in judiciously safeguarding the investment of the Garden funds. Even the best managed funds have depreciated in these trying days, while some conservative institutions have lost nearly their all. I shall be happy to look in on the Garden when my next botanical journey takes me that way.

With best wishes and pleasant remembrances⁷²

If the events of 1929 were not forgotten at least they were not allowed to interfere with plans for the botanic garden.

A second garden brochure was issued in September 1933 with a panoramic view of the garden site on the cover and a photograph of John W. Bixby on the inside front cover, and beneath "John W. Bixby Foundation, Established, 1927." This is the first mention of any foundation being associated with the garden and the announcement must have been premature with plans later being changed since no John W. Bixby Foundation was ever established.



The Orange County sanctuary and picnic grounds were located on the Santa Ana River bottom below the botanic garden, 12 May 1934. RSA.

Mrs Bryant felt the need to have professional advice in the development of the new garden and had named a number of prominent persons, many of them scientists, as councilors of the garden. The names of these men (and the single woman) appear for the first time in the 1933 brochure: L. H. Bailey, Walter T. Swingle, and Fredrick Law Olmsted as Honorary Councilors; W. L. Jepson, LeRoy Abrams, P. A. Munz, and Alice Eastwood as Councilors for Botany; Thomas Hunt Morgan, H. J. Webber, D. D. Waynick, and Henry O. Eversole as Councilors for Biology; Theodore Payne and Fred H. Howard as Councilors for Plant Propagation; Ernest Braunton as Councilor for Planning, and Terry E. Stephenson, Councilor for Garden Publications. The Board of Trustees and the Staff remain the same as reported in the 1931 brochure.

It is also stated that the Board of Trustees and the Board of Councilors planned to hold semiannual Field Days in April and October. The first of which was announced for 7 October 1933.

There is also the first public announcement of The Orange County Sanctuary and Picnic Grounds. In order to make the garden particularly attractive to Orange County residents, Mrs Bryant had set aside several acres on the flat river bottom where "there will be over a hundred species of trees and shrubs besides the many annuals and perennials native to Orange County . . ." The Sanctuary she described was being developed under the auspices of the Conservation Committee of the Garden Club of America of which Mrs Bryant was the southern California representative.

The 1933 brochure also contained the first public announcement of visiting days. "The Nursery, Garden site and Herbarium are open to visitors holding visitor's cards each Thursday in April, May and June, and by special arrangement on other dates." Prospective visitors were advised to obtain the cards by writing directly to Mrs Bryant "as far in advance as possible." Also, "Visitors wishing to bring picnic luncheons may reserve tables and benches in the Garden Picnic Grounds."

The new garden was already beginning to attract attention in other parts of the country and the *Christian Science Monitor* of Boston, Massachusetts, carried a lengthy account of the operation in its 21 November 1933 issue. As early as January 1934, *Sunset Magazine* was extolling the pleasures to be gained from a visit to the botanic garden in Santa Ana Canyon. By that time the large Spanish-style house atop one of the highest hills in the canyon was a familiar landmark for all those traveling between Corona and Santa Ana.